Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Emanuel Haldeman-Julius Publishing Records
Identification: SC/EHJP
Creator: Haldeman-Julius, E. (Emanuel), 1888-1951
Physical Description: 1.26 linear feet
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Special Collections

Abstract: Emanuel Haldeman-Julius Publishing Records consists of a small number of business records, the personal records of Jack Botwin, the printing plates for one title, and articles about the Haldeman-Julius Collection at the Leonard H. Axe Library (formerly the Porter Library) at Pittsburg State University, Kansas.

Biographical Information:
Emanuel Haldeman-Julius, a newspaper publisher, opened a publishing house in Girard, Kansas, in 1919 where he published small, inexpensive paperback books, including classic works of literature and essays on myriad topics, for the working and middle classes. For his first printing project, he selected fifty classic and socialist works. In 1923 he named the series “Little Blue Books.” Little Blue Books measure 3½” x 5” and took their name from their blue covers. They fit into a pants or shirt pocket, and were especially popular across the US through the 1930s and 1940s, especially with travelers. He began issuing the Big Blue Books in 1925. They were 5 ½” x 8 ½.”

Haldeman-Julius felt there was no subject too controversial to be in print. Customers could order titles from mail order catalogs or visit one of the outlet stores in Cincinnati, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Venice, Colorado. The Los Angeles store opened in 1924 in the downtown Mercantile Arcade Building (recently converted to loft apartments).

Genre/Form of Material:
Ephemera
Paper records

Conditions Governing Use:
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For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the Citing Archival Materials guide.
Emanuel Haldeman-Julius Big Blue Books and Larger Books Collection
Emanuel Haldeman-Julius Little Blue Books Collection

Arrangement of Materials:
Series I: Business records
Series II: Jack Botwin Records
Series III: Haldeman-Julius Collection at Kansas State College
Series IV: Printing Plates

Scope and Contents:
Emanuel Haldeman-Julius Publishing Records consists of a small number of business records, the personal records of Jack Botwin, the printing plates for one title, and articles about the Haldeman-Julius Collection at the Leonard H. Axe Library (formerly the Porter Library) at Pittsburg State University, Kansas. The collection is divided into four major series: Business Records, Jack Botwin Records, Haldeman-Julius Collection at Kansas State College, and Printing Plates.

Series I, Business Records, consists of cancelled checks, publisher’s catalogs, correspondence, photographs, and advertisements.

Series II, Jack Botwin Records, consists of the personal records of Jack Botwin, a Haldeman-Julius salesman.
Series III, Haldeman-Julius Collection at Kansas State College, consists of articles about the Haldeman-Julius Collection at Kansas State’s Porter Library, which has subsequently been replaced by the Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University, Kansas.

Series IV, Printing Plates, consists of one complete set of copper-electro printing plates (16 plates) for Little Blue Book no. 930, Mark Twain’s An Idle Excursion.

Series I: Business Records

Box 1, Folder 1  Advertisements
Box 1, Folder 2  Big Blue Books catalogs
Box 1, Folder 3  Cancelled Checks
Box 1, Folder 4  Little Blue Books catalogs
Box 1, Folder 5  Photographs
Box 1, Folder 6  Thank You Note

Series II: Jack Botwin Records

Box 1, Folder 7  Advertisements
Box 1, Folder 8  "As a Man Thinketh"
Box 1, Folder 9  Correspondence

Series III: Haldeman-Julius Collection at Kansas State College

Box 1, Folder 10  "Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the First Little Blue Book"
Box 1, Folder 11  "Four Hundred Million Books," by Norman Tanis
Box 1, Folder 12  Pamphlets

Series IV: Printing Plates

Box 2, Item 1  Copper-Electro Printing Plates for An Idle Excursion by Mark Twain (Little Blue Book no. 930)
Box 3, Item 1  Copper-Electro Printing Plates for An Idle Excursion by Mark Twain (Little Blue Book no. 930)